BENGALURU, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

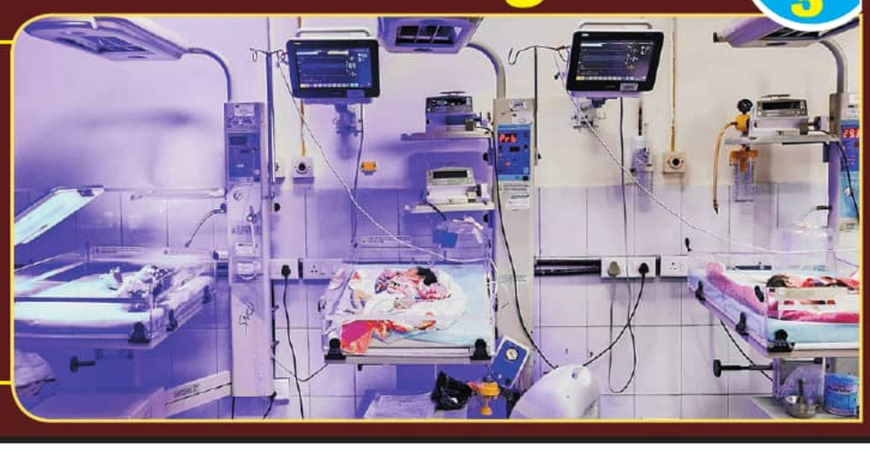
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 17 | Humidity 75% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 83,216 | Nifty 25,492 | Gold 1,22,020 | Silver 1,52,500 | Dollar 88.66 | Euro 103.09 | GBP 116.36

Snatched away

CITY PAGE 3

Incidents of newborns being lifted from hospitals raise questions on lack of screening measures for visitors



Loo lock-up

CITY PAGE 5

Even as BWSML plans to build seven toilets for women, civic activists wonder when existing ones will be functional

Dwindling pay, high fuel and toll costs, long idle hours pushing drivers away from app-based cab operations. And the result is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to get taxis, especially at airport

YOUR RIDE WAS CANCELLED

Unregulated pricing system on aggregator platforms muddling the market, drivers say

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A growing number of cab drivers in Bengaluru are quitting app-based platforms and traditional taxi services for better-paying alternatives like autos, delivery jobs and even self-employment, a shift that's now being felt sharply at the city's Kempegowda International Airport and also on the roads, where passengers have been struggling to find rides.

The shortage of aggregator cabs at both Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 has left travellers waiting for hours, reigniting a debate over why Bengaluru's primary airport continues to face chronic cab unavailability.

The issue drew fresh attention after a viral post on X (formerly Twitter) showed a long queue of stranded passengers at the airport's pick-up point, with many claiming they had waited for over two hours. Frequent flyers commented that such scenes have been a regular occurrence for months.

File photo from a time when Bengaluru's cab and taxi industry was booming

Sources say dwindling pay, high fuel and toll costs, and long idle hours have made driving app-based cabs increasingly unviable. The airport lies nearly 40 km from the city centre, and a round trip can

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **Many (drivers) have switched to autos, as they see it is more profitable than taxis. Even with government subsidies and self-employment schemes covering nearly 90% of drivers, the number of active taxis continues to drop**
>
> — Taxi operator

Screen test toppers

Indians spend around 1.5 hours a day gaming, reveals report that puts country at third place globally in terms of online entertainment consumption

Iffath Fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

India has emerged as one of the world's most digitally active nations, ranking third globally in time spent on online entertainment, according to an October 2025 report by gaming studio Galaxsys. The study reveals that Indians spend about 1.5 hours a day gaming, with nearly 19% of the population playing regularly, and are also among the top podcast listeners worldwide, tuning in for around the same duration daily.

Brazilians lead the world in digital engagement, dedicating nearly two hours each day to gaming and social media, while Indians are fast catching up especially in podcasts and mobile-based entertainment.

According to the report the assessment was done based on time spent playing on the game console, time spent on social media, time spent listening to music. Experts from Bengaluru say that this surge in digital activity has both benefits and drawbacks for mental health.

"In India, people are spending more time on digital activities such as gaming, binge-watching, and social media use. With affordable

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Story unfolds

Prabhat, The Temple of Art, an internationally renowned artistic institution, is presenting '18 Days' which revolves around the Kurukshetra war from The Mahabharatha. The dance musical aims at communicating the story of Kurukshetra in the most convincing fashion, which can cater to audiences across the globe irrespective of demographic characteristics. **Where: Sri Kumaran Children's Academy, Doddakallasandra; When: Nov 15, 4 pm and 7 pm**

02 Get crafty

Craft Forward will be exploring the potential of craft through contemporary collaborations between artisans and designers. It includes workshops, a shadow puppetry play and talks by practitioners who use craft in fields like conservation and animation. The exhibition (open through the month) showcases crafts in new-age mediums such as branding, packaging, and animation. **Where: Courtyard Koota, Kengeri; When: Open since November 7**

03 Musical journey

Re: Sound by Jet ALive featuring Lucky Ali will be taking the audience on a soulful journey, celebrating music that has defined generations. From nostalgic classics to new age soundscape, experience the timeless charm of a musical icon, live on stage. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: December 6, 7 pm**

04 Stand-up saga

After a massive world tour, Samay Raina is back to his home-ground, with a brand new show, ready to take the audience on a laughter-filled journey. **Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; When: November 21, 4 pm**

05 Adventure awaits

Kukdukoo Children's Festival is bringing a weekend of fun, laughter and magic, packed with spectacular activities for children and parents. **Where: Oakridge International School, Dommasandra; When: Nov 29 and 30, 10.45 am**

Tobacco-linked cancers surge despite awareness measures

Data reveals that about 25 per cent of all cancer cases in Karnataka in 2024 were tobacco-related, with higher prevalence in men compared to women

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Tobacco-related cancers continue to pose a grave public health concern, contributing significantly to the overall cancer burden in Karnataka and across India. Despite years of awareness campaigns and regulatory efforts, the toll of tobacco use remains alarming, as cases in the state linked to tobacco consumption have been high. Globally, cancer continues to be a major cause of mortality. According to Globocon 2022, the estimated global cancer incidence in 2022 was 18.7 million cases, with 9.6 million deaths, reflecting that nearly one in two diagnosed patients lose their lives to the disease. In India, as per NCDIR-ICMR estimates published in JAMA 2025, the incidence for 2024 is estimated at 15,62,099 new cases with 8,74,404 deaths, signifying a significant national health challenge — with cancers of the breast, cervix, oral cavity, and lungs being the leading types.

In Karnataka, the estimated total cancer incidence for 2024 stands at 87,855 cases, with 26,516 deaths. Notably, 25 per cent (21,898 cases) are tobacco-related cancers. Among males, 39,170 cases were reported, of which 14,439 (37 per cent) were tobacco-related, while 12,554 succumbed to the disease. Among females, 48,685 cases were reported with 7,459 (15 per cent) tobacco-related cancers and 13,962 deaths. In Bengaluru city, which represents the urban cancer profile of the state, the estimated incidence is 15,153 cases, with 3,826 deaths. Tobacco-related cancers account for 24.1 per cent (3,771 cases) of the total, with a higher proportion among men (36.6 per cent) compared to women (15.2 per cent).

Sustained high tobacco use, coupled with large and growing population, continue to drive India's tobacco-related cancer burden, says doctor

In the year 2024, the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO), Bengaluru, registered a total of 21,881 new cancer cases, out of which 12,930 were histologically or cytologically confirmed. Among these, 3,939 cases (30.5 per cent) were identified as tobacco-related cancers, reflecting the continued impact of tobacco use on the state's cancer burden. When analysed by sex, 10,392 male patients were registered, with 6,075 confirmed cases and 2,662 (43.8 per cent) being tobacco-related. Among female patients, there were 11,489 registrations, with 6,855 confirmed cases and 1,277 (18.6 per cent) tobacco-related cancers. The institute also provided follow-up services to a total of 3,85,473 patients, indicating KMIO's extensive role in both treatment and long-term cancer care across Karnataka and neighbouring regions.

Number of cases registered at KMIO in 2024
All cancer cases (male) – **10,392** (new registrations)
Confirmed cases – **6,075**
Tobacco related cancers – **2,662**

All cancer cases (female)– **11,489** (new registrations)
Confirmed cases – **6,855**
Tobacco related cancers – **1,277**

Dr Pavan Yadav, Lead Consultant – Interventional Pulmonology & Lung Transplantation, Aster RV Hospital, said, "Sustained high tobacco use, coupled with our large and growing population, continues to drive India's tobacco-related cancer burden. The synergistic co-exposure with alcohol and gaps in policy enforcement further worsen the scenario." He emphasised the need for stronger policy measures such as substantial hikes in excise taxes (including on beedis and smokeless products), comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship (TAPS), as well as stricter point-of-sale controls, standardised packaging, and prominent health warnings.

Dr Naveen T, Director of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KIDWAI), highlighted that cancer is curable if detected early. "We urge every citizen to be aware of early warning signs, undergo regular screening, and adopt healthy lifestyles. Together, we can reduce the cancer burden in Karnataka," he said.

Vegetable prices soar to ₹50–₹60 per kg

Unseasonal rains and crop diseases have driven up vegetable prices sharply across Bengaluru, with most varieties now selling between Rs 50 and Rs 60 per kg, leaving consumers reeling. Vegetables that cost Rs 20 to Rs 40 just two weeks ago — like cauliflower, beans, avarekai, and carrots — have nearly doubled in price. Onions now sell at Rs 30, potatoes at Rs 40, chillies and brinjals at Rs 80, and coriander leaves have hit Rs 120 a kilo. Traders say erratic weather has crippled production, while rising wholesale prices have pushed retail rates even higher.

With the wedding season beginning, vendors predict prices won't ease for at least two more months. "Even though prices are high, profits are low," said Siddanayak, a local market owner. Middle-class families, unable to afford retail prices, are now rushing to wholesale markets early in the morning to buy in bulk, pooling resources to purchase 10–12 kilos a week. Meanwhile, daily wage earners and small traders say the surge has strained household budgets, as Rs 500 now buys barely enough vegetables for four days. **— BMB**

Engineers told to inspect roads on bikes after Minister's displeasure

Expressing dissatisfaction over the poor upkeep of footpaths and non-functional CCTV cameras in Bengaluru South City Corporation limits, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has issued a new directive — engineers must ride bikes through every road in their wards to personally inspect conditions and identify maintenance needs. During a review meeting on Saturday, he criticised the lack of proper maintenance and instructed that damaged CCTVs be repaired or replaced immediately. The minister also warned that contractors failing to meet agreement terms would be blacklisted, and delayed projects must be re-tendered. He further directed officials to restore unusable walkways, remove accident-prone black spots, install street lights near Ejipura flyover, and prioritise funds for the full development of Madiwala Lake instead of unnecessary white-topping works. **— BMB**

Four-day Krishi Mela from Nov 13 at GKVK

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, will host a four-day Krishi Mela from November 13 to 16 at the Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK) campus under the theme 'Prosperous Agriculture – Developed India: Soil, Water, Crop'. Vice-Chancellor Dr SV Suresh announced that the event will showcase over 700 stalls featuring farm innovations, agri-products, and demonstrations, with free transport from the GKVK main gate to the exhibition venue and affordable traditional meals for visitors.

Introducing the new concept of Agri-Tourism, the mela will offer visitors a glimpse into rural farming practices, culture, food, and crafts, aiming to create awareness. Highlights include the launch of four new crop varieties—two hybrid types each in sunflower and turmeric, a special 'Insect World' exhibit, and Matsyaloka, displaying ornamental fish, pearl culture, and improved breeds. Panel discussions will cover themes like 'Prosperous Agriculture for a Developed India' (November 14), 'Agri-Tourism: Opportunities and Challenges' (November 15), and 'Native Breeds and Farming Practices' (November 16). The event will be inaugurated by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, with Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, Agriculture Minister N Cheluvarayaswamy, and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda among the dignitaries. **— BMB**

'Enough is enough': Home Minister talks tough on prison 'VVIPs'

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday assured of strict action against prison officials accused of providing 'VVIP treatment' to inmates, after a video showing undertrials and convicts using mobile phones and watching television inside the prison went viral. The video, believed to be from Bengaluru Central Prison, triggered widespread outrage, prompting a swift overnight inspection by prison authorities.

According to officials, the inspection was carried out in the early hours of Sunday to check for contraband and mobile phones. However, they claimed nothing suspicious was found during the search. A formal complaint has been filed with the jurisdictional police, seeking a detailed investigation into the circulation of the video.

Officials also maintained that the video is two to three years old and may have been leaked by inmates inside the prison as part of an internal conspiracy.

Reacting sharply to the issue, Parameshwara said he had summoned senior officers and sought a report from ADGP (Prisons) B Dayananda. "We have appointed B Dayananda as the head (of Prisons). He was on leave yesterday, but I have spoken to him. I have told him that this is happening repeatedly; whoever is responsible for this, immediate action needs to be taken against them, and a report should be submitted. But I will not tolerate this nonsense. Enough is enough," Parameshwara told the media.

The controversy comes barely a month after another video from the same prison showed rowdy-sheeter Srinivasa alias Gubbachhi Seena celebrating his birthday inside the barrack with a garland of apples and a cake. Following that incident, a head warder and a warder were suspended, while an assistant superintendent, two jailers, and two assistant jailers were placed under departmental inquiry for dereliction of duty.

Past raids by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) and city police have repeatedly exposed the presence of contraband, mobile phones, and illegal facilities inside the prison. In several cases, prison and medical staff were caught smuggling mobile phones and banned items to inmates, pointing to a deep-rooted nexus between insiders and convicts. Despite multiple crackdowns, the recurring incidents continue to raise questions about accountability, and internal corruption. **–BMB**

Snatched: Newborns at risk in unmonitored hospitals

Recent attempted child-snatching involved woman, who is said to have been disturbed, but several other incidents have traffickers' hand

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A newborn was nearly snatched from the maternity ward of Ghosha Hospital, Shivajinagar, in the early hours of last Tuesday, the third child-lifting incident reported under the Shivajinagar–Commercial Street police limits in a month. The infant was rescued when the complainant's sister, her attender, raised an alarm as two women allegedly tried to carry the child away.

According to the FIR and the complainant's statement, the mother had delivered a baby boy on November 3 and was admitted to the general ward on the first floor of Ghosha Hospital. Her sister was staying with her.

Around 12.20 am on November 4, two persons, one named Rafia and the other a minor girl, reportedly entered the ward, introduced themselves as visitors and asked to use the mother's phone to call family members.

The complainant handed over the handset. When the new mother briefly stepped into the washroom, the two women allegedly attempted to lift the infant from the bed. The complainant's sister saw them and raised an alarm, hospital staff and other attendants rushed in and the two women fled before they could be detained.

A complaint was lodged the same day and police registered a case under the relevant sections dealing with attempt to abduct and trespass.

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Hospitals need to maintain visitor logs and ensure the CCTV cameras are functional, say officials

Latest incident has once again brought to light glaring lapses in hospital security and the lack of visitor checks, particularly during late-night hours

What probe showed

A police team began verifying reports about two suspicious women often seen at the hospital premises. Investigators soon learnt that Rafia and the 13-year-old were already known in the area. Locals and hospital staff complained about their frequent presence and theft-related activities around the hospital. Acting on these complaints, police tracked them down to a nearby locality and detained them for questioning.

It was later revealed that the 13-year-old girl, described by police as "abnormal" had been found by Rafia near a city bus stop. Rafia had befriended her, often taking her along to hospitals in the area where they would seek food.

Preliminary investigation found that Rafia suffers from mental health issues and had been under treatment earlier. She was reportedly separated from her husband, who is an alcoholic, and her child currently lives with him. According to her brother's statement, Rafia was emotionally unstable and had shown obsessive affection toward infants.

Police said that Rafia had developed a conversation with the complainant's family during the stay, even calling random contacts from their phone in an attempt to appear friendly. On the day of the incident, she allegedly attempted to take the newborn away, possibly driven by emotional instability rather than a trafficking motive.

"The attempt does not appear to be part of an organised trafficking racket, but rather an impulsive act by a mentally disturbed woman who had gained access due to lax hospital security," said the police official.

2nd case in a month

However, this is the third such incident under the same jurisdiction in recent months. In the first, a seven-month-old boy was kidnapped from the pavement outside Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute in Shivajinagar, moments after his mother breastfed him. The child's parents, balloon sellers from Tamil Nadu, raised an alarm as the accused fled in an autorickshaw.

Police later arrested the kidnappers, revealing during interrogation that they had planned to sell the infant. The accused are now in custody, and investigators are tracing the person they intended to sell the child to.

In another case that took place in May, police arrested a woman beggar from Mysuru for abducting a one-year-four-month-old boy from the footpath near Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital. The woman reportedly intended to use the child for begging, and the boy was later safely reunited with his family.

The latest incident has once again brought to light glaring lapses in hospital security and the lack of visitor checks, particularly during late-night hours.

Senior officials said hospitals need to maintain proper visitor logs and ensure that CCTV cameras remain functional at all times.

Kidnap, murder accused shot at as he tries to flee

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A 45-year-old vegetable vendor, wanted in connection with two brutal murders, was shot at by the Hebbagodi police when he attacked a constable and tried to flee during a weapon recovery operation at Bommasandra crematorium on Sunday.

The accused, Ravi Prasad Reddy, a native of Gorantla village in Andhra Pradesh, was involved in the kidnapping and murder of a businessman, Balappa Reddy, on Thursday. Investigations also revealed his role in the murder of a tea stall owner, Madesha (40), whose body was found at his residence two days earlier.

According to M Narayana, DCP (Electronics City Division), Balappa, a landlord and workshop owner from Hebbagodi, was abducted from Jigani Ring Road and murdered the same day. His body was later dumped in a forest area near Hosur, Tamil Nadu. Shockingly, after killing him, the accused called the victim's family and demanded a ransom of ₹2 crore for his "release".

A special team was constituted, with technical assistance from the Central Crime Branch (CCB), to trace the accused. He was tracked down after investigators confirmed his involvement in both the murders.

Police said Reddy had been a tenant of Balappa and was engaged in small-scale trade and finance business. Having suffered heavy losses, he allegedly planned to abduct his landlord for ransom and resorted to murder when the victim resisted.

During the recovery of the murder weapon, Reddy suddenly attacked Constable Ashok and attempted to escape. The inspector accompanying him warned him to stop and fired two rounds in the air before shooting at his legs to immobilise him.

Reddy sustained bullet injuries and collapsed on the spot. Both he and the injured constable were rushed to the hospital and are said to be recovering.

Police are now waiting for Reddy's condition to stabilise before questioning him further about his criminal background and possible accomplices involved in the crime. **–BMB**

Black spots get bright makeover in Cooke Town

Members of the Cooke Town Residents Association (CTRA), Bengaluru North City Corporation employees, and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) staff joined hands on Saturday to beautify black spots as part of a large-scale Clean-Up Drive.

The black spot on Davis Road, which had long been an eyesore for pedestrians and motorists, was completely transformed. "I want to thank and appreciate the Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner for his proactive attitude and response to civic problems. A few of the perennial black spots were beautified as part of the clean-up drive," said Albert R of Nivasigala Sangha, Cooke Town.

Appreciating all those responsible for the initiative, Raja Shanmugam, president of the CTRA, said, "Residents, pourakarmikas, and officials came together in a spirited community effort to completely transform the area by the end of the day's activity. TThe day concluded on a high note when the Sarvagnanagar team was recognised for its outstanding efforts, winning ₹1 lakh in the city-wide competition. Meanwhile, a clean-up drive was also held at Richards Park.

— Y Maheswara Reddy

The black spot on Davis Road Junction beautified during the clean up drive

Koramangala walk uncovers model pedestrian network

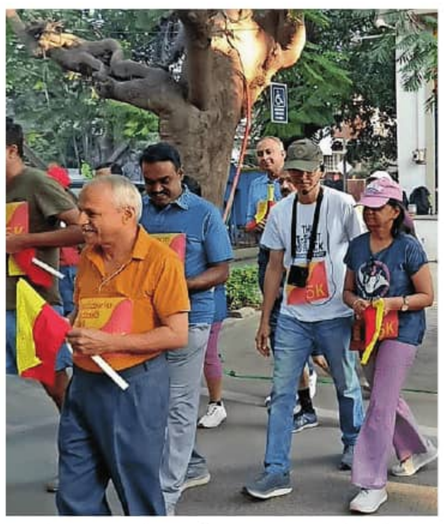
Project Walkaluru participants discover clean, obstacle-free stretch proving citizen collaboration improves Bengaluru footpaths

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

On Saturday morning, over 40 participants took to the streets for Project Walkaluru's second Footpath Walk. The event, held in partnership with the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) South City Corporation, brought together residents, civic officials, and city enthusiasts for a 5 km walk to test and celebrate the neighbourhood's footpaths.

The group walked for nearly two hours across Koramangala 3rd Block, covering Sarjapur Road, 8th Main, 80 Feet Road, 7th Cross, and 16th Main. Along the route, participants paused to document obstacles — defined as anything forcing pedestrians off the footpath and onto the road.

Surprisingly, the walkers reported a clean and walkable experience. There were no garbage spots, no broken or missing slabs, and no two-wheelers blocking paths. The few issues observed included three cars parked on the footpath, three instances of construction material



Participants walked 5 km documenting obstacles forcing pedestrians off footpaths

spilling onto walkways, and minor irritants like cow dung, hanging wires, and stones placed to deter bikers.

In total, only 8–10 obstacles were noted over 5 km — a statistic participants felt was a testament to what civic coordination can achieve. Arun Pai, Coordinator of Project Walkaluru, said the success of the event reflects the power of citizen-government collaboration. "When citizens and the government work together with sincerity, the results are amazing. It also creates pride in the neighbourhood, which is a critical ingredient for a better city. Several citizens and Palike staff worked to make this result possible," he said.

The initiative began on November 1 with the Rajyotsava Footpath Walk — an 11 km route through Shivajinagar under the Central City Corporation. With Koramangala's 5 km walk completed, Project Walkaluru has now covered 16 km of Bengaluru's footpaths.

The larger goal, organisers say, is to cover 100 km of walkable paths across all five city corporations in the coming months, spotlighting both the successes and shortcomings of pedestrian infrastructure in Bengaluru. As the campaign's slogan goes, the vision remains simple yet powerful — "Let's Make Bengaluru a Walkaluru!"

Child attacked as stray terror spreads in Ulsoor

Residents of 10th Cross, G-10 Street, Jogupalya, Ulsoor, have raised serious safety concerns after a stray dog, allegedly being fed and sheltered by a local resident, bit a child earlier this week. The community says they have been living in fear as dogs frequently chase and attack people, especially at night. "We are unable to walk freely on our own street," said a resident, adding that the situation has worsened over the past few months. "One of the children from our building was bitten today, and we don't know whom to contact for help."

Residents allege that despite multiple attempts to reach the BBMP helpline, no assistance has been provided. "When we call BBMP, they tell us to contact the dog-catching team, but the phone numbers available online are not working," another resident said in frustration. The community has urged civic authorities to immediately intervene and address the growing stray menace in the locality. "We request BBMP to take urgent action before someone else gets hurt," residents appealed, demanding proper coordination and functional helplines to handle such emergencies. **— BMB**

Unsafe walkway puts pedestrians in peril

Footpath users near the Veterinary College bus stop are facing serious safety hazards as the walkway remains frequently blocked, forcing pedestrians onto the busy road. Residents and commuters report that this obstruction endangers walkers, especially children and the elderly.

"People are being pushed onto the road because the footpath is completely unusable," said a local resident. "It's extremely unsafe, especially during peak hours when traffic is heavy." Commuters have urged civic authorities to clear the footpath and restore safe pedestrian access. "We hope the concerned officials intervene quickly before any accident occurs," the resident added, calling on BBMP and traffic authorities to take immediate action. **— BMB**

Neglect leaves Doddabidarakallu road in ruins

Bengaluru's pothole problem has resurfaced once again — this time in RR Nagar's Doddabidarakallu near Siddagangaiah Choultry on Siddhartha School Road. The massive crater in the middle of the road has turned into a daily nightmare for commuters and schoolchildren, exposing yet another gap in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) claims of pothole-free zones.

Residents say the pothole has only grown wider over the past month, making the stretch unsafe for both motorists and pedestrians. "Every time it rains, the hole fills with water and vehicles get stuck. It's like a trap on the road," said Shankar R, a daily commuter. Local shop owners say business has dipped as cars avoid the stretch altogether.

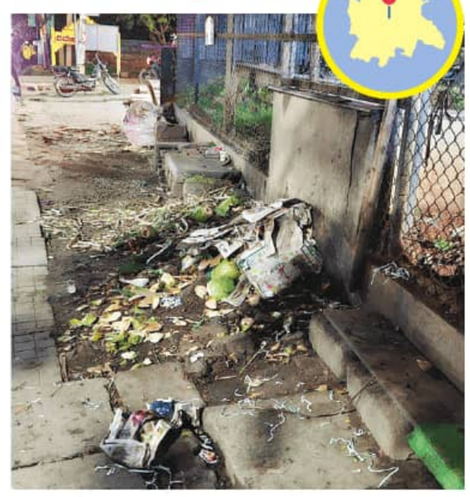
Local shop owners report business dropping sharply

"We've complained several times to the ward office, but no action has been taken," said Saraswati, a shopkeeper. Civic officials claim temporary patchwork will be done soon, followed by a permanent fix after inspection.

However, residents remain unconvinced. "They always fix it only after an accident," said another local, demanding accountability from the BBMP. "We just want safe roads. It's not too much to ask in a city that calls itself a tech capital." **— BMB**

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Hawker menace
Doddaballapur



Hawkers continue to encroach and litter the footpath near a mart on Doddaballapur Road, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and demanding urgent action from authorities.

Waste zone
Kavalbysandra

Irregular waste collection has turned Kavalbysandra into a garbage dumping spot, with residents urging BBMP officials to ensure consistent and timely clean-up.

Civic neglect
Jakkur

The Jakkur stretch continues to suffer from pothole-ridden roads, garbage piles, and disruptions caused by the weekly santhe, leaving commuters frustrated.

Pink Line operations delayed yet again

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The rake shortage which is increasing the waiting time for trains at the Yellow Line has now caught up with Namma Metro's Pink Line, pushing its commercial launch further by nearly five months — marking yet another delay in the city's most awaited metro corridor. Originally slated for launch in 2020, the 21.25 km Kalena Agrahara–Nagawara Pink Line has seen its deadline slide multiple times — first to late 2025, then to March 2026, and now to May 2026. Despite the elevated stretch being ready for operations, not a single train has yet arrived for trial runs.

Rake woes return

Sources said that Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), which has signed an agreement with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to manufacture 318 metro coaches, has not delivered any trains so far. Of these, 96 are earmarked for the Pink Line and the rest for the Blue Line. The prototype rake is expected only by December-end, and it will take at least two months for testing and approvals. A minimum of three trains are needed to begin services — which means commuters may not see operations before mid-2026.

Slowest build rate yet

Construction of the Pink Line, comprising 18 stations, has taken eight years so far, averaging just 2.5 km of progress per year. Of the total 21.25 km, 7.5 km is elevated (from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere) and 13 km underground (from Dairy Circle to Nagawara). The underground section is expected to open only by December 2026. The elevated section, covering Kalena Agrahara, Hulimavu, IIM-Bangalore, JP Nagar 4th Phase, Jayadeva, and Tavarekere (Swagath Road Cross), has had its share of contractor troubles. Originally awarded to Simplex Infra in 2017, BMRCL cancelled the contract after only 37 per cent progress by 2021. The remaining work was reassigned to GR Infraprojects, which eventually completed the elevated stretch on schedule.

Delay in delivery of trains has pushed Pink Line operations to mid 2026

Next phase awaits rakes

Officials say operations on the elevated section could begin with three to four trains once deliveries start. But until then, the Pink Line — like the Yellow Line before it — remains a project ready on paper but waiting for its trains.

With each delay, Bengaluru's metro dream edges further away — not for lack of infrastructure this time, but for want of wheels to run on it.

New toilets? How about fixing old ones

Citizens say authorities should focus on maintaining existing toilets instead of spending money on building new ones, many say toilets should first be made accessible

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

KAUSHIK JN

Public toilet near Balekundri Circle remains inaccessible for public use

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) plans to construct seven women-only toilets within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits under a public-private partnership. However, activists and members of the public argue that authorities should prioritise maintaining existing public toilets for both men and women, rather than allocating taxpayer funds to new construction.

Residents complain that several toilets built over six months ago remain unopened to the public. One such facility is reportedly located at the SG Balekundri Circle, where commuters waiting to board Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses say the operational toilet block would offer much-needed relief. "It is not clear why the authorities concerned kept the toilet block locked all these months. They constructed the toilet block with much enthusiasm but failed to open it for the public even after six months," said Satish B, a BMTC commuter.

A social activist, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated that a toilet block built years ago on the footpath of Gangadhar Chetty Road was later being used to store waste materials. "The authorities made an attempt to construct one more toilet block adjacent to the location where the old toilet block existed. However, the construction was stopped due to objections from the public," said the social activist.

Many public toilets remain closed or unusable due to inconsistent funding, says civic activist, adding that sustainable solution involves employing local manpower and ensuring continuous support for proper upkeep

Expressing concern over the state of a public toilet on HAL Airport Road, opposite Rajeshwari Theatre, civic activist Vinod Jacob remarked that the city doesn't lack toilets — the real challenge lies in keeping them functional and well-maintained. "Many public toilets remain closed or unusable because maintenance and operations are not consistently funded. A sustainable solution lies in employing local manpower and ensuring uninterrupted support for upkeep of the toilets," said Jacob.

Narayana Swamy N, an autorickshaw driver, urged authorities to reopen all defunct public toilets instead of investing in new ones. He pointed out that several e-toilets have remained non-functional for years. "I want the authorities to repair the defunct toilets for the benefit of the public. I appeal to the authorities to construct the toilets at places where toilets are necessary," he said.

Taxpayers' forum pushes for statewide support network

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Individual Taxpayers' Forum (ITPF) appealed to the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to establish a separate board for the welfare of individual taxpayers across the country. The ITPF, in a letter, recommended the government to have branches of the proposed board in all states to cater to the needs of the taxpayers.

The letter, signed by nearly 100 taxpayers in Bengaluru, stated that individual taxpayers have been contributing significantly for the development of the country, and, as per the media reports, the amount of tax being paid by the individual taxpayers has exceeded the corporate tax. It stated that out of 9 crore individuals who filed income tax returns, around 5.2 crore paid taxes amounting to Rs 10 lakh crore, and that direct taxpayers contribute about 6.8 per cent to the gross domestic product (GDP), a figure higher than that of indirect tax contributions.

"The government, through the proposed board, has to provide a monthly stipend (simple interest on the total amount of tax paid by the individual) during his/her service in case of job loss or during retirement as a social security measure," the letter read. The forum stated that severance packages offered by private companies during employment should be exempt from taxation. It also urged the government to provide health insurance to taxpayers and their families, proportionate to the amount of tax paid. "We demand the government to provide education loans at zero per cent interest to the children of taxpayers based on the amount of tax paid by them," the letter read.

The ITPF stated that middle-class families in urban areas are struggling to afford education and healthcare for their children, as private schools and hospitals remain financially out of reach. "If the government establishes a separate board for individual taxpayers, middle-class families will get a big relief and that in turn increases the trust and confidence in the government," the forum said.

Swetha Rangaswamy, a member of the ITPF, said that establishing a separate board for taxpayers would be a great help for senior citizens. "It will reduce senior citizens becoming a burden to their children. I demand the government to ensure free medical care for senior citizens," said Rangaswamy.

Unlawful drone activity raises conservation fears

Unauthorised drone activity near Kaiga Nuclear Plant, Kodsalli Hydro Project posing combined wildlife, ecological, and national security concerns in Kali region

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Videos from illegal drones uploaded online expose activity in sensitive zone

At a time when the State is grappling with rising incidents of human–wildlife conflict and unregulated tourism within protected areas, concerns have emerged over illegal drone operations in the Kali Tiger Reserve. A wildlife conservationist has submitted a written complaint to the Kali Tiger Reserve administration regarding the unauthorised use of drones in and around the Shivpur Hanging Bridge area, inside the Reserve.

The complainant noted that videos and photographs captured using these drones have been uploaded to social media platforms, showing clear evidence of drone activity within this ecologically sensitive and security-critical landscape.

"The operation of drones near wildlife habitats causes severe stress to wild animals, especially sensitive species such as tigers, leopards, hornbills, and elephants that inhabit the Kali river valley. The unfamiliar sound and movement of drones can disrupt their natural behaviour, including feeding, breeding, and resting, and can force them to abandon critical habitats," said Giridhar Kulkarni, the complainant. He further explained that such disturbances often compel animals to move away from their natural ranges toward adjoining agricultural fields and human habitations in search of safety and undisturbed spaces. This displacement not only endangers wildlife but also heightens the risk of human–wildlife conflict, crop damage, livestock loss, and retaliatory incidents — outcomes that undermine years of conservation efforts in the Kali landscape.

Drones equipped with cameras can be misused to locate animals, assess their size and health, or even guide poachers to their location, enabling illegal hunting, the complaint highlighted

The area surrounding the Shivpur Hanging Bridge is an important wildlife habitat and lies close to the Kodsalli Reservoir, Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant, and the Kali Hydro Electric Project (Nagzari Power House) — all of which are classified as restricted and high-security zones. As per the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), flying drones in or around protected areas, tiger reserves, and eco-sensitive zones is strictly prohibited without prior written permission from the State Forest Department and other competent authorities. Only government-authorised agencies engaged in research or wildlife monitoring may operate drones under strict supervision. The use of drones in such sensitive zones poses serious risks and is strictly prohibited under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and the Eco-Sensitive Zone regulations of the Kali Tiger Reserve. Moreover, drones equipped with cameras can be misused to locate animals, assess their size and health, or even guide poachers to their location, enabling illegal hunting, the complaint highlighted.

Given the proximity of the area to the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant and hydro projects, unidentified drone activity also poses potential threats to national security. Kulkarni has urged that an inquiry be initiated to identify individuals involved and that penal action be taken under relevant wildlife and environmental laws.

Homes to turn into Kannada libraries

Nearly 60,000 home libraries will be launched across Karnataka under the "Manegondu Granthalaya" initiative by the Kannada Book Authority to revive reading and support those affected by declining book sales. The first library opened at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's home on January 13. The programme has expanded, with 30,000 libraries ready in Bengaluru and 10,000 each in Mysuru, Udupi, and Mangaluru. It will also reach MLAs, ministers, MPs, and cultural figures. Chairperson Dr Manasa said the project aims to rebuild public confidence in reading and boost fresh publishing. **— BMB**

Old tiger captured after fatal attacks

Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre announced that the male tiger responsible for multiple fatal attacks on people and livestock in Saragur taluk has been captured. The tiger, blamed for three deaths in a month, was trapped after an extensive operation involving Bandipur and Nagarahole officers. DNA tests will confirm if it is the same tiger linked to incidents in Hediyala, Moleyuru, and Nugu. Officials said the 12–13-year-old big cat had worn-out teeth, making it unable to hunt wild prey. Khandre directed continued monitoring near settlements for further tiger movement. **— BMB**

Government limit on complaints criticised

The Karnataka government has limited citizens to five online complaints under the Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS)–Janaspandana, covering 42 departments. The move has sparked criticism, with activist Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar calling it "unconstitutional" and a curb on public redressal rights. Launched on November 1, 2021, the IPGRS accepts complaints through a portal, helpline, or app. Officials confirmed the limit via email. So far, 2.71 lakh grievances were filed and 2.62 lakh resolved. Legal experts urged withdrawal, citing Supreme Court rulings against arbitrary restrictions. **— BMB**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Tunnel tiff turns personal

The political war over Bengaluru's Tunnel Road project has veered off course into a personal showdown between DyCM DK Shivakumar and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya. In a cheeky twist, DKS claimed that Surya had once approached him — right before his wedding — with a letter asking for a new car, hinting he could even make the letter public. Hitting back, Surya accused the DyCM of spreading rumours, clarifying that his request for a replacement vehicle was made way back on July 22, 2024 — nearly a year before his marriage — because his old car had clocked over a lakh kilometres, "not because I needed a bride." The sharp retort was a direct jab at DKS's earlier quip that Bengaluru's tunnel road was essential "since everyone wants a car — and these days, even grooms can't get brides without one."

Surprise spark

In a twist that left even party insiders raising eyebrows, Bamul President and MP DK Suresh — brother of Deputy CM DK Shivakumar — sprang a surprise by declaring that "Siddaramaiah hasn't aged yet and can continue as Chief Minister for as long as he wishes — maybe even again." Just days ago, the same Suresh had openly said he wished to see his brother in the CM's chair. Now, calling all talk of leadership change "baseless chatter," he reaffirmed Siddaramaiah's leadership for the 2028 polls — a political U-turn that added a fresh jolt to Karnataka's Congress circles.

Reel talk

Don't make films just to grab a subsidy— make good ones that deserve it, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, urging filmmakers to chase quality, not handouts. Handing out the long-pending 2018–19 State Film Awards in Mysuru recently, he hailed Dr Rajkumar as a star who lived by the same values off-screen as he portrayed on-screen—one reason he still rules hearts. "Cinema shapes society," he said, calling on actors to live responsibly and directors to create films that inspire social change. With hundreds of films being made today but social depth declining, he quipped that he's watching fewer movies these days— "there's too much quantity, not enough quality."

Angry reaction

Reacting sharply to renewed chatter about a leadership change in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah made it clear that only the Congress high command's word matters — nothing else. When asked about a Bihar leader's remark suggesting that Deputy CM DK Shivakumar should take over as Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah shot back, "Has Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, or Mallikarjun Kharge said anything about this? Why keep repeating the same question?" He stressed that there is no public demand for a leadership change and that the speculation is media-driven. "The Congress party has a high command, and what it decides is final," he asserted.

Public first

Opposition leader R Ashoka has demanded that the Karnataka government first respond to Bengaluru citizens' concerns before pushing ahead with the proposed tunnel road project. Speaking to reporters on Monday, he said, "The Deputy CM promised to make the committee head — but first, let the CM and DCM prove they can even fill potholes. Those who can't fix potholes — how will they build a tunnel? And where's the money for it?" In response, Energy Minister K J George countered that tunnel roads are a sign of progress, not politics. "Even Japan built tunnels under the sea 40 years ago. When I was Bengaluru Development Minister, I built concrete roads on the CM's directions — and the BJP protested even then. Let them show me one pothole on those roads now," George remarked. **— Sridhar Vivan**

BM SIMPLY PUT

A look at what is happening with Bengaluru's second airport plan

Turbulence ahead

The Karnataka government's ambitious proposal to develop a second international airport near Bengaluru has taken off but faces early headwinds. After inspecting three proposed sites—Choodahalli, Somanahalli, and Nelamangala—the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has submitted its initial report, revealing both promising flight paths and significant turbulence the state must navigate before the project can truly ascend.

What is the purpose of building a second international airport for Bengaluru?

The government aims to create a second airport to meet the growing air traffic and infrastructural demands of Bengaluru, which is rapidly emerging as a global technology hub. The new airport will help ease congestion at the existing Kempegowda International Airport and support the city's long-term economic and industrial growth.

Which sites have been identified for the project?

Three potential locations have been shortlisted—Choodahalli (between Kanakapura Road and Mysuru Road), Somanahalli (near Bannerghatta), and Nelamangala (close to the Tumakuru highway). Each site spans approximately 4,300 to 4,700 acres and will undergo a detailed technical and financial feasibility study before one location is finalized.

What did the AAI report reveal about these sites?

The AAI's preliminary report noted that all three sites face significant topographical challenges. None of them are naturally flat; they consist of rocky terrain and slopes varying between 60 and 90 meters. This means substantial land leveling and cutting of hills would be required, leading to higher costs. The proximity of Choodahalli and Somanahalli to Bannerghatta National Park also raises environmental concerns, particularly around noise pollution and the impact on wildlife.

What are the major challenges identified at the Choodahalli site?

Choodahalli is surrounded by hard rock hills and uneven slopes, requiring large-scale earth-cutting and leveling. The site's proximity to defense zones such as the HAL area means it needs approvals from the Defence and Civil Aviation ministries, along with environmental clearances because of its closeness to Bannerghatta National Park.

What difficulties does the Somanahalli site present?

Somanahalli faces similar issues as Choodahalli, with rocky terrain and hilly landscapes that complicate construction. However, it is considered slightly more practical for development, provided detailed land surveys and advanced radar-based mapping are conducted to ensure stability and suitability.

What obstacles could affect the feasibility of the Nelamangala site?

While Nelamangala is strategically located, its hilly topography and closeness to both Kempegowda International Airport and Yelahanka Air Base pose potential airspace conflicts. The site would also require multiple clearances from civil aviation, defense, and environmental agencies before any development can proceed.

What happens next?

Following AAI's site assessment, the Karnataka government is moving forward with tenders for a detailed technical and financial feasibility study. Once the study confirms a viable site, the cabinet will review the findings and issue land acquisition notifications. Only then can the state proceed with central approvals and begin groundwork for the ambitious second airport project.

What did officials say about the project's progress?

According to Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil, the government has received AAI's report and identified the required land in all three locations. The next step involves evaluating economic and technical viability before finalising one site. He assured that the decision will prioritise the state's long-term development interests.

Bodies of 2 boys drowned in Attibele lake found

Two children drowned in a lake at Balluru village near Attibele on the city's outskirts on Saturday evening. Their bodies were pulled out by Fire and Emergency Services personnel on Sunday afternoon.

The victims identified as Aniket Kumar (8) a Class 3 student from Bihar, and Rehmat Baba (11) a Class 4 student from Andhra Pradesh, were the sons of daily wage labourers residing in the area. Police said the boys were playing near the lake bund and likely ventured into the water despite not knowing how to swim. When they failed to return home, their families began searching for them.

Villagers who had spotted the boys near the lake raised the alarm, prompting rescue efforts early Sunday. **–BMB**

Law graduates from other states can practise in K'taka

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that law graduates from other states are eligible to enrol and practise in Karnataka, provided their law degrees are recognised by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and their certificates are properly verified.

The court was hearing a petition filed by a law graduate from Kalaburagi, who had completed his LLB from Monad University in Uttar Pradesh. His application for enrolment with the Karnataka State Bar Council (KSBC) had not been processed, prompting him to approach the court. In its order, the court referred to Section 24 of the Advocates Act, 1961 that lays down conditions for enrolment as an advocate. The provision specifies that any Indian citizen above the age of 21, possessing a law degree from a recognised university, is entitled to apply for enrolment with a state bar council. **–BMB**

SOCIALTATTLE

THAT WENT VIRAL

Swaminathan Natarajan
@swamin400
How many of us have visited and seen Halmidi Sashana which is housed right in the middle of Bengaluru city ?
Many visit its more famous neighbour but miss seeing many real pride of our state

X user @swamin400 posted about the Halmidi Shasana, urging people to visit the site located in the heart of Bengaluru city. The post highlighted how many visitors overlook this historically significant inscription, considered one of Karnataka's earliest Kannada inscriptions, while visiting its more popular neighbouring landmarks, calling it a true symbol of the state's heritage and pride.

WHAT'S TWEETING

Sheetal Kulkarni
@sheetalskulkar7
Follow
No provision to get platform ticket at SBC back gate (Plat 7 & 8) — causing trouble for people dropping or receiving passengers. Please provide a ticket counter or display QR for UTS app for easy booking. @SWRRLY @AshwiniVaishnaw #Bengaluru #SBC #Railways

X user @sheetalskulkar7 raised a concern about the lack of platform ticket provision at the back gate (Platforms 7 & 8) of KSR Bengaluru City Railway Station (SBC), stating that it causes inconvenience to those dropping off or receiving passengers. The user suggested setting up a ticket counter or displaying a QR code for UTS app booking for ease of access. The post, tagged to @SWRRLY and @AshwiniVaishnaw, was later acknowledged by railway authorities.

Srihari Karanth
@sriharikaranth
Follow
The 12th annual Drivers' Day, celebrating the birth anniversary of actor Shankar Nag, is being held at Shalini Grounds today, Sunday, November 9, 2025.
Honest drivers will be awarded with gold medals.
Actress Rachita Ram has been chosen as this year's "Auto Ambassador".

X user @sriharikaranth posted about the 12th annual Drivers' Day being held at Shalini Grounds on Sunday, November 9, 2025, to mark the birth anniversary of actor Shankar Nag. The event, organised in honour of the late actor's contribution to Kannada cinema and the auto drivers' community, featured the presentation of gold medals to honest drivers. Actress Rachita Ram was named this year's "Auto Ambassador".

BANGALORE MIRROR TAGGED

Manoj Kumar
@smanojkumar4
Follow
This road is just in front of my home. It is asphalted just now, and the quality is such that a kid can peel off the top layer with bare hands. After waiting over a year, this is the quality of roadwork we get! Pure corruption at its peak! @BangaloreMirror @bbmpcommr @WFRising
Bangalore Metro Updates @WFWat... · 21h
Would have been a double blow!
Residents of Prashanth layout are extremely happy and thankful to GBA, MLA and contractor FOR NOT ASPHALTING the road since the alread...

X user @smanojkumar4 posted about the poor quality of recently asphalted roads in front of his residence, stating that "the top layer can be peeled off by hand." The user alleged corruption and substandard work after waiting over a year for the road to be repaired, tagging @BangaloreMirror, @bbmpcommr, and @WFRising in the post.

Domestic Workers Bill: Call for deeper consultation, stronger protections

Domestic workers' unions and rights organisations have called on the Karnataka government to strengthen and revise the draft Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, describing the legislation as a landmark step that requires deeper consultation and stronger worker protections.

In a statement, the Domestic Workers Rights Union and other signatories commended the government's initiative. "We wish to commend and congratulate the Karnataka Government's proactive engagement with issues concerning domestic workers and their initiative in framing the current bill," the letter stated. The groups also noted that Karnataka is "the first state in the country to initiate a comprehensive legislation on domestic workers."

However, they stressed that as the first state to take such a step, the government bears a "significant responsibility to ensure that a well-thought-out and exhaustive legislation, with the best interests of workers at its core, is enacted." They urged the state to release a Kannada version of the bill, noting that "most domestic workers have not had formal English language education," which currently prevents them from engaging with or providing feedback.

Among several procedural and substantive concerns, the unions demanded that the title of the Bill explicitly mention protection of working conditions to reflect its "rights-based nature." They also urged that the definition of forced labour be broadened to include trafficking and bonded labour, and that the definition of "child" be aligned with the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

The organisations also criticised the lack of clarity around registration obligations, insisting that employers must be responsible for registering workers. "In case the employer does not register the domestic worker within a stipulated time period, the domestic worker should have a fallback

Organisations urge state to release Kannada version of bill as most workers don't have English language education

mechanism," the letter stated, suggesting a digital registration process accessible to workers.

The press release raised concerns over the renewal clause, which currently requires workers to renew registration every three years to access benefits. The groups said this is "onerous and will work against the interests of the workers," and recommended shifting the responsibility to employers to update workers' employment status periodically.

Regarding working conditions, the unions argued that the Bill's promises were "empty, vague and lacking in detail." They proposed specific provisions such as an eight-hour workday, four weekly holidays, paid leave, and overtime compensation. They further called for "basic amenities including safe drinking water, food, first aid and access to washrooms," and insisted that workers be allowed to use common facilities like lifts and restrooms.

The unions demanded that minimum wages for domestic work be determined through a technical committee, based on the Supreme Court's Reptakos Brett judgment. They also sought annual bonuses, wage increments, and mandatory pay slips uploaded to a digital portal.

On social security, the organisations urged the government to spell out specific entitlements in the Bill, including health care, maternity benefits, accident and disability compensation, provident fund, pension, and life insurance. "Special social security coverage for senior citizen domestic workers, as from 55 years onwards," should also be included, they said.

They also called for detailed grievance redressal mechanisms, protection from intrusive surveillance, and inclusion of occupational health and safety standards. The groups demanded expansion of Local Complaints Committees under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act to cover domestic workers effectively. —BMB

Online presence, a double-edged sword

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

internet and easy access to smartphones, digital habits have become a major part of daily life," said Dr. Divya Shree KR, Consultant, Psychiatry, Aster CMI Hospital, Bengaluru.

According to Dr. Divya, there are positive sides to this digital shift. "Digital platforms help people stay connected, learn new things, and find entertainment. Gaming can improve focus, memory, and problem-solving skills, while social media allows people to express themselves and stay updated with the world. For many, online activities also reduce loneliness and provide relaxation after work or study," she said.

However, she cautioned that overuse is taking a toll on mental health. "Too much screen time can cause anxiety, depression, poor sleep, and low concentration. Binge-watching and endless scrolling often lead to a sedentary lifestyle and reduced productivity. Many people also start comparing their lives with others online, which affects self-esteem and happiness. Gaming addiction is becoming more common, especially among teenagers, leading to anger issues, isolation, and poor academic or work performance," Dr. Divya explained.

Doctors also note that the shift to online life is reducing real-world social interactions. "People are spending more time online than socialising in person. This reduces emotional bonding, which is essential for mental well-being. It's important to maintain a balance, limit screen time, engage in outdoor activities, and spend time with family and friends," she said.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru's creative community is seeing a parallel boom in digital content creation, especially podcasts. Ramjee Chandran, creator of The History Of Bangalore and The Literary City podcasts, said the medium is finding a loyal audience in India.

Chandran added, "With both my podcasts, The History Of Bangalore and The Literary City, I've only experienced an enthusiastic and growing listenership. A podcast is like any media product; it is the radio equivalent of TV streaming. So the same rules of success apply... meaning there are no rules of success. But on the flip side, I don't think the ad market understands how to use this medium and measure it. Let's see. It will evolve."

Your Connect

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

OTHER VACANCIES

WORK FROM HOME

EARN 50000pm zero investment work from home free training from Top Co.for Rtd official /Bankers/CA/Tax Consultants /Hw call 9538820130, 9035060141

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

KORAMANGALA

A'BLE for Rent, 1200 Sqft Furnished, 1st Floor @ 1.20L & 900 Sqft @ 1L in Ground floor, on JNC Road, Koramangala, Call Owner Rajesh 98451 67755

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gomathi Manavalan residing at No. 51/1, Banumathi Nilayam, 6th Cross, Vivekananda street, A Narayanapura, Bangalore 560016 have changed my name from Gomathy Manavalan to Gomathi Manavalan vide affidavit dated 05.11.2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary G. Rajendra.

I, SUMATHI SHIVALINGAIAH W/o A SHIVANNA, R/oNo 210 10th Cross, Carmel School Padmanabhanagar, Banashankari II Stage Bengaluru-560070. I have changed my name to SUMATHI vide affidavit dated: 04/11/2025 Before Notary C. Sharada Bangalore.

I, Ayesha Banu S W/o Nadeem Pasha R/o No 980 13th Cross Maralur Dinne Tumakuru - 572105 Have Changed My Name to Ayesha for All Purposes.

I Veeresh Aladakatti R/o 102, 6th Cross Road, Teachers Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072 have changed my minor daughter s name from Vidhmayi Aladakatti to Vidhmayi V Adya. Reason for name change is Astrology.

I Prashant Kumar.C S/o S .Changaiah R/o 341/1, 8th, cross, Saraswathi Nagar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore 560040, have changed my name to Prashanth Kumar.C for all future purposes

I, Kishan Prabhakar have changed my name from Kishan to KISHAN PRABHAKAR born on 06/12/1976 residing at No 22 Ratna Vilasa Rd, Blr 560004 vide affidavit dated 04.11.25 at Blr.

I, Shataj W/O Syed Aslam # 135 2nd Cross Shadab Nagar K B Sandra Blr-45 have changed my name to Sha Taj for all purposes

I Abinash Kumar Poddar S/O, Shyam Lal Poddar R/o # 1145, Sukhi Villa, 4th Floor, 3rd Cross, Shrirampuram , Bangalore, 560021. have changed my name to Avinash Kumar Poddar .

I, Roopa Kishan have changed my name from Rupashree to Roopa Kishan born on 11/03/1979 residing at No 22 Ratna Vilasa Rd, Blr 560004 vide affidavit dated 04.11.25 at Blr.

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

Waiting for a cab or waiting for Godot?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

take several hours, often yielding little profit once expenses are deducted.

"Most operators across the state are struggling with a severe shortage of drivers. We offer allowances and even late-night rides/work for corporate trips, but there are fewer takers now," one operator told BM. "Many have switched to autos, as they see it is more profitable than taxis. Even with government subsidies and self-employment schemes covering nearly 90% of drivers, the number of active taxis continues to drop."

Once booming, now struggling

According to associations, the problem extends beyond the airport. With fewer drivers available across the city, passengers are facing longer wait times and surge pricing during peak hours.

Back in 2016, Bengaluru's cab and taxi industry was booming, with more than one lakh vehicles operating across the city. But the pandemic changed everything -- thousands of drivers were pushed out of work, many vehicles were seized, and the financial strain proved too heavy for several operators to recover.

Nearly five years later, the industry is yet to bounce back. Drivers say their earnings today are far lower compared to 2016, even though expenses have doubled. "A car that once cost ₹6 lakh now costs nearly ₹9 lakh. Insurance premiums, maintenance, and fuel prices have all gone up, but earnings haven't," said a source.

Operating costs have risen sharply, while flexible fare systems on aggregator platforms have further disrupted the market. Associations further alleged that aggregator companies are not following fare regulations under public service rules, which are designed to balance cost per kilometre with demand and supply. "There's no control or standardisation, the central and state governments need to step in and enforce one-city, one-fare rules," said one cab operator.

Tanveer Pasha, president of Ola Uber Drivers and Owners Association, told BM, "The unregulated pricing system is driving many of these drivers out of business. Nearly 25,000 local taxi drivers today are struggling to make a living as aggregator platforms keep changing fares at will. While local drivers are quitting, companies are tying up with fleet operators and bringing in outstation drivers, which is creating language barriers, traffic issues, and even safety concerns. Despite repeated appeals, there's still no clear policy in place to protect them."

Issue building over time

Reports from the recent past suggest that the issue has been building over time. Earlier, the airport had also witnessed protests from authorised taxi unions, who accused unauthorised operators of undercutting fares. Combined with low earnings and competition from new transport options like free buses and bike taxis, these tensions have led to a steady decline in taxis servicing both the airport and city routes.

While public transport options like BMTC's Vayu Vajra buses continue to serve passengers, they do not meet the needs of late-night arrivals or those travelling with heavy luggage. With passenger footfall rising steadily, the mismatch between demand and available cabs has only widened.

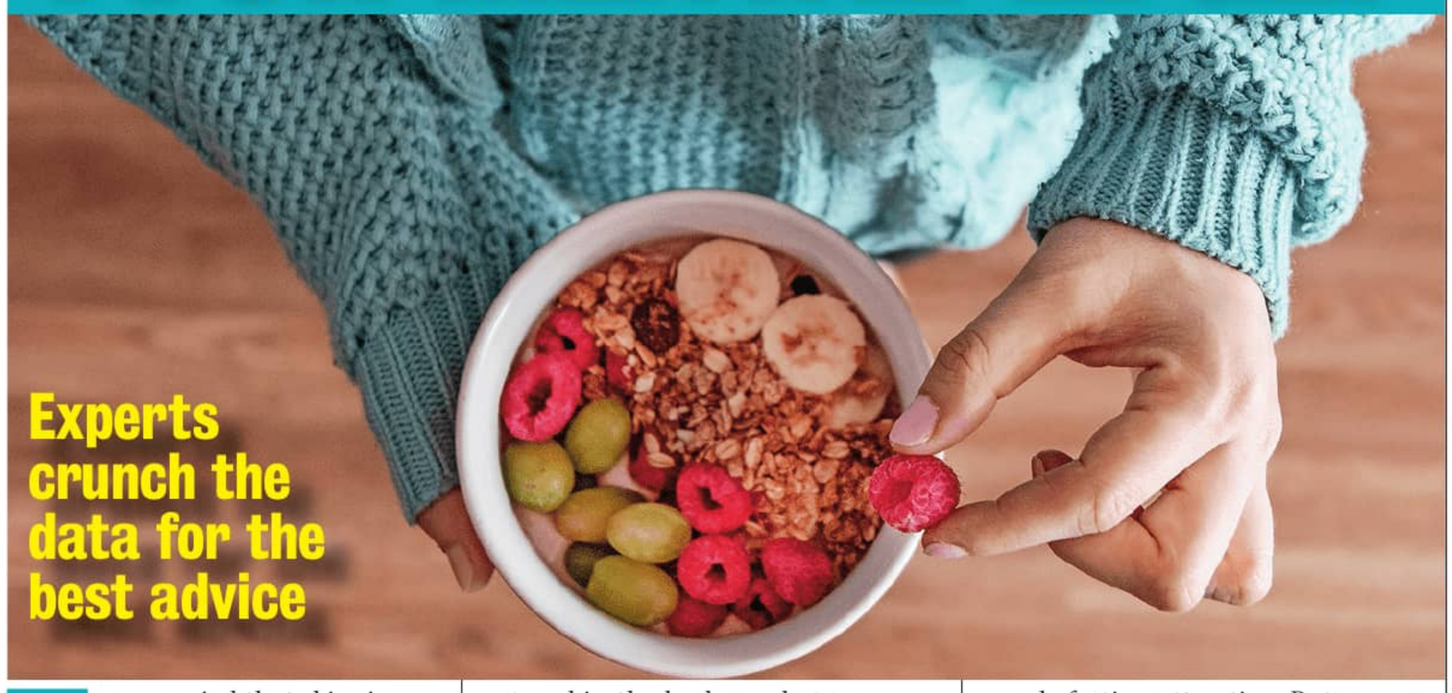
Associations and drivers highlight the need for revised fare regulation, better coordination between airport authorities and operator associations, and a sustainable driver incentive model that ensures steady earnings.

HEALTH TIP: Peppermint tea can help with throat pain and cold and to fight bacterial infections

Apple cider vinegar has strong antifungal properties, so apply it to infected area to treat ringworm

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

DOES FASTING DULL YOUR MENTAL EDGE?



Experts crunch the data for the best advice

Ever worried that skipping breakfast might leave you foggy at work? Or that intermittent fasting would make you irritable, distracted and less productive?

Snack food ads warn us that "you're not you when you're hungry", reinforcing a common belief that eating is essential to keep our brains sharp.

This message is deeply woven into our culture. We're told constant fuelling is the secret to staying alert and efficient.

Yet time-restricted eating and intermittent fasting have become hugely popular wellness practices over the past decade. Millions do it for long-term benefits, from weight management to improved metabolic health.

This raises a pressing question: can we reap the health rewards of fasting without sacrificing our mental edge? To find out, we conducted the most comprehensive review to date of how fasting affects cognitive performance.

Why fast in the first place?

Fasting isn't just a trendy diet hack. It taps into a biological system honed over millennia to help humans cope with scarcity.

When we eat regularly, the brain runs mostly on glucose, stored in the body as glycogen. But after about 12 hours without food, those glycogen stores dwindle.

At that point, the body performs a clever metabolic switch: it begins breaking down fat into ketone bodies (for example, acetoacetate and beta-hydroxybutyrate), which provide an alternative fuel source.

This metabolic flexibility, once crucial for our ancestors' survival, is now being linked to a host of health benefits.

Some of the most promising effects of fasting come from the way it reshapes processes inside the body. For instance, fasting activates autophagy, a kind of cellular "cleanup crew" that clears away damaged components and recycles them, a process thought to support healthier ageing.

It also improves insulin sensitivity, allowing the body to manage blood sugar more effectively and lowering the risk of conditions such as type 2 diabetes.

Beyond that, the metabolic shifts triggered by fasting appear to offer broader protection, helping reduce the likelihood of developing chronic diseases often associated with overeating.

What the data showed

These physiological benefits have made fasting attractive. But many hesitate to adopt it out of fear their mental performance will plummet without a steady supply of food.

To address this, we conducted a meta-analysis, a "study of studies", looking at all the available experimental research that compared people's cognitive performance when they were fasting versus when they were fed.

Our search identified 63 scientific articles, representing 71 independent studies, with a combined sample of 3,484 participants tested on 222 different measures of cognition. The research spanned nearly seven decades, from 1958 to 2025.

After pooling the data, our conclusion was clear: there was no meaningful difference in cognitive performance between fasted and satiated healthy adults.

People performed just as well on cognitive tests measuring attention, memory and executive function whether they had eaten recently or not.

When fasting does matter

Our analysis did reveal three important factors that can change how fasting affects your mind.

First, age is key. Adults showed no measurable decline in mental performance when fasting. But children and adolescents did worse on tests when they skipped meals.

Their developing brains seem more sensitive to fluctuations in energy supply. This reinforces longstanding advice: kids should go to school with a proper breakfast to support learning.

Timing also seems to make a difference. We found longer fasts were associated with a smaller performance gap between fasted and fed states. This might be due to the metabolic switch to ketones, which can restore a steady supply of energy to the brain as glucose runs out.

Performance in fasted individuals tended to be worse when tests were conducted later in the day, suggesting fasting might amplify the natural dips in our circadian rhythms.

The type of test also mattered. When cognitive tasks involved neutral symbols or shapes, fasting participants performed just as well, or sometimes even slightly better.

But when tasks included food-related cues, fasted participants slipped. Hunger doesn't create universal brain fog, but it does make us more easily distracted when food is on our minds.

What this means for you

For most healthy adults, the findings offer reassurance: you can explore intermittent fasting or other fasting protocols without worrying that your mental sharpness will vanish.

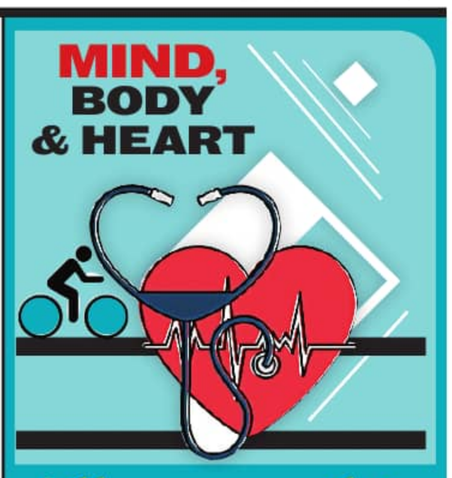
That said, fasting isn't a one-size-fits-all practice. Caution is warranted with children and teens, whose brains are still developing and who appear to need regular meals to perform at their best.

Similarly, if your job requires peak alertness late in the day, or if you're frequently exposed to tempting food cues, fasting might feel harder to sustain.

And of course, for certain groups, such as those with medical conditions or special dietary needs, fasting may not be advisable without professional guidance.

Ultimately, fasting is best seen as a personal tool rather than a universal prescription. And its benefits and challenges will look different from person to person.

(By David Moreau, University of Auckland, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Benefits of black coffee

1. Makes Your Heart Stronger
One of the Black coffee benefits includes antioxidants and helps in keeping your blood pressure in check. A few studies also claim that if you regularly consume one or two cups of coffee every day, your risk of developing heart-related ailments reduces.

2. Boosts Your Memory
Black coffee is believed to have great properties that help in improving your memory over time. It also helps in keeping memory-related diseases at bay.

3. Alzheimer's Disease Prevention
Alzheimer's disease primarily affects the elderly, usually those over the age of 65. One of the black coffee benefits may help to lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

4. Reduced Risk of Cancer
According to some studies, coffee may help reduce the risk of developing certain cancers such as liver cancer, colon cancer, and breast cancer. Coffee aids in the reduction of internal inflammation.

5. Diabetes Management
Many studies suggest that drinking black coffee can help you effectively combat diabetes risk. Coffee may help to increase insulin production in the body, which may help to regulate blood glucose levels.

6. Beneficial For Liver Health
The liver is a vital organ that is essential to keep our bodies healthy. Black coffee benefit include the reduction of harmful liver enzymes found in the blood. According to some studies, coffee may help reduce the risk of liver cancer, fatty liver disease, hepatitis, and liver cirrhosis.

7. Keeps Your Stomach Clean
Since coffee is a diuretic drink, the more your drink, the more you'll pee, as it flushes the bacteria and toxins out of your body. This helps in keeping your stomach clean and healthy. **—Femina**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Social vulnerability impacts women disproportionately during climate crises: Research

Social vulnerability during climate crises can affect women disproportionately due to unpaid domestic work and reliance on precarious resources, a study by the Goa Institute of Management has found.

The researchers at the Goa Institute of Management (GIM) conducted the study, officials said, to highlight how local feminist perspectives can be leveraged to address the crisis of climate change, which has severe health implications, especially for women. It also explores how these perspectives challenge patriarchal norms, build agency, and strengthen community decision-making.

The study advocates for the adoption of an intersectional approach towards addressing the interrelationship between gender, health, and climate for ensuring equity and justice.

According to Sreerupa Sengupta, Associate Professor, GIM, who is one of the authors, the uniqueness of the study lies in its focus on the diverse strands of local feminisms of our country and also discussing how these feminist endeavours have given a voice and identity to women in the community.

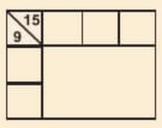
"The study provides a historical understanding of the role of local feminisms towards mobilising diverse categories of women for equality and justice. Focusing on women's health and climate action, the study highlights the role of community-based organisations towards addressing intersecting inequalities through gender-responsive, participatory approaches," Sengupta said.

The study documents successful practices by community-based organisations and recommends a collaborative policy design by embedding feminist, intersectional, and community-led frameworks in policies. **—PTI**

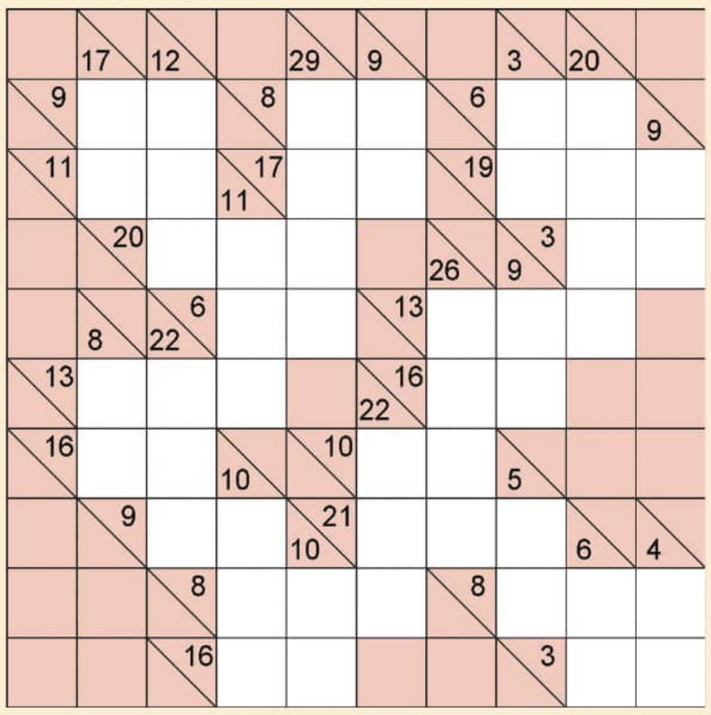
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

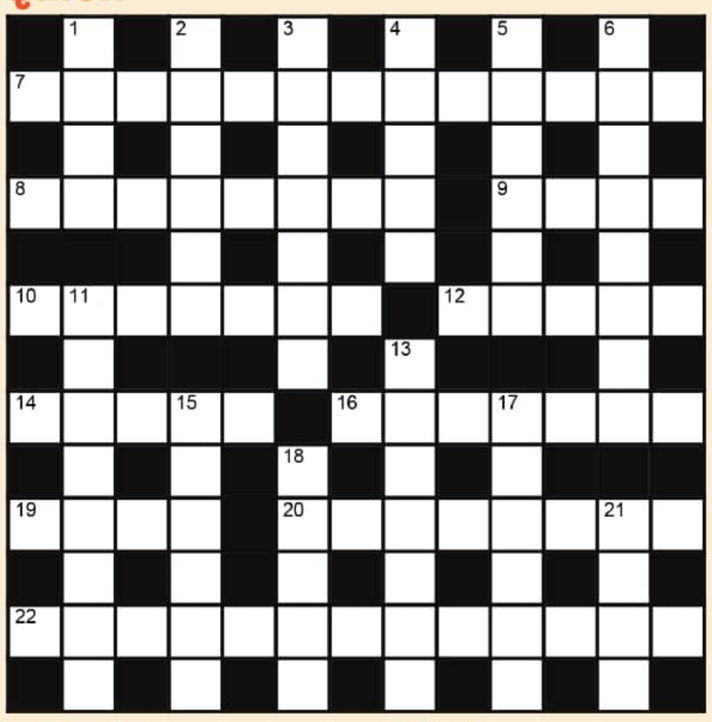
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Late shehnai maestro from Varanasi (9,4)
8 120 dozen? (3,5)
9 Facial feature (4)
10 Paltry or just a little bit? (4,3)
12 Man-made fibre (5)
14 Journalistic coup (5)
16 Deleting (7)
19 Alan ___ : Hawkeye of M*A*S*H (4)
20 A precious metal (8)
22 Outside the limits of decent society? (6,3,4)

DOWN

1 Climbing-plant (4)
2 In a stuck up or proud manner (6)
3 Permitted (7)
4 One of hundredth of a rupee (5)
5 Very thin (6)
6 ___ ____ the law : formulates a rule? (4,4)
11 Did extremely well, better than most (8)
13 Bangalore cinema home to India's first 4k screen (7)
15 One indulging in public speaking in a big way? (6)
17 Of clothes, short and revealing (6)
18 Call this by its own name to be forthright! (5)
21 A crossbred citrus fruit (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS T

PA XAK CDNKLGI L HQARP AU MDE RLEI-ILQXIQN UAQ KYI BIDNWQI HBLNN.

Linemaro

I'm actually not this tall. I'm sitting on my wallet

Mindchow

Fully inhale your dream and exhale the manifestation of it

Joke of the day

The easiest time to add insult to injury is when you're signing somebody's cast

Loop

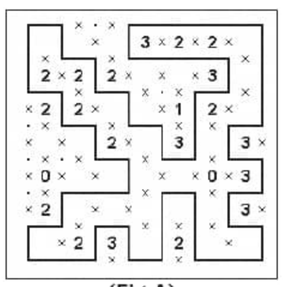
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

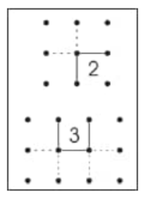
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

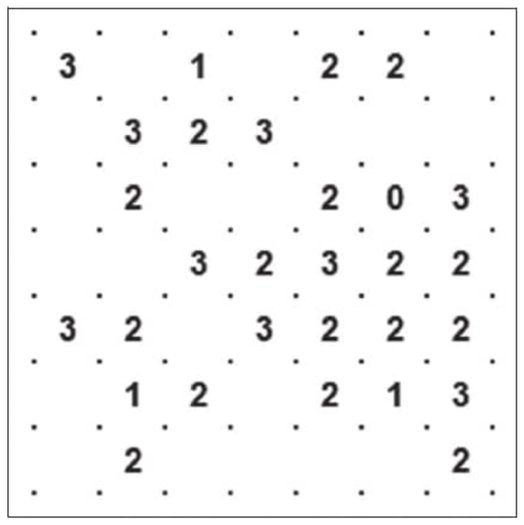
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



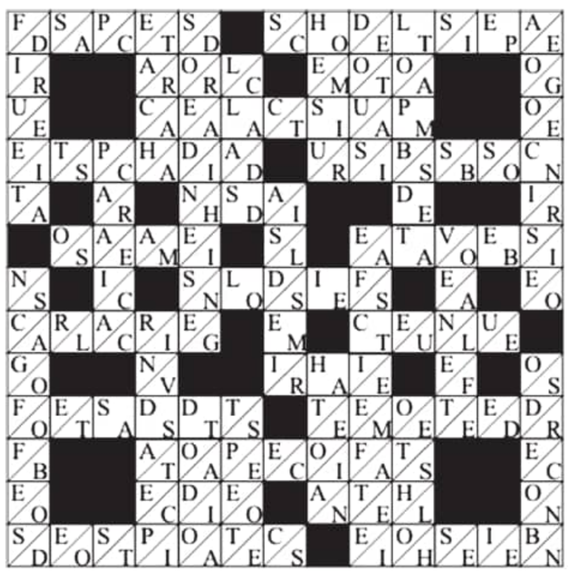
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



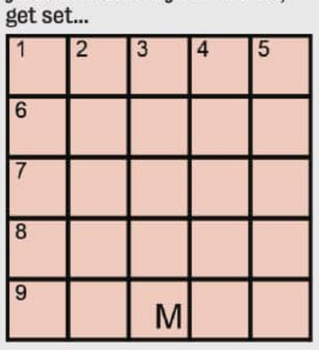
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

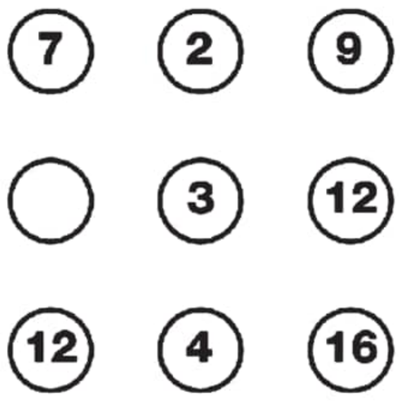
1 Vases; 6 A rale;
7 No gel; 8 Lo had;
9 Meads

DOWN

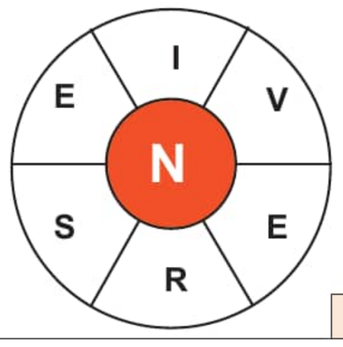
1 Sad Al; 2 A hoar;
3 Me Nov; 4 A glee;
5 Se LSD

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the blank and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5			3	9	4	8	
9				2		7		
				1	7			
	8						9	3
	9	7				2	5	
5	6						7	
			4	7				
		8		5				6
	4	5	1	6			3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 22

4 5 5 8

Medium = 3

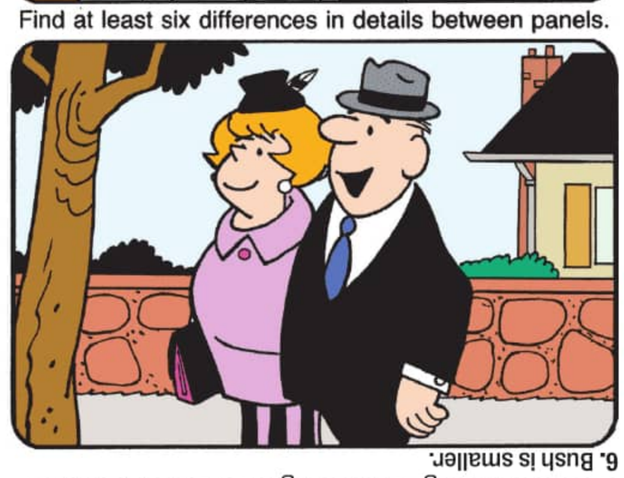
3 3 6 9

Hard = 21

2 3 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



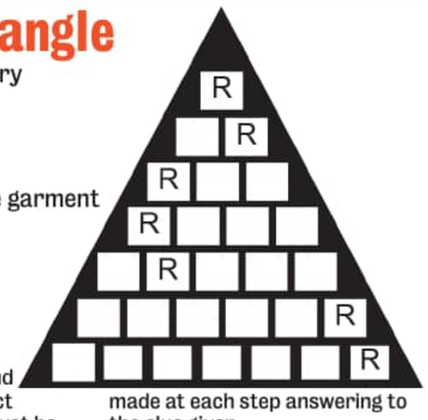
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Hat is different. 3. Stone is missing. 4. Roof is higher. 5. Button is smaller. 6. Bush is smaller.

Riddler

What do these four things have in common?
Bide Hay Mad Washing

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 Either
3 Fish eggs
4 Italy's capital
5 Introduction
6 Child's one-piece garment
7 Sovereign

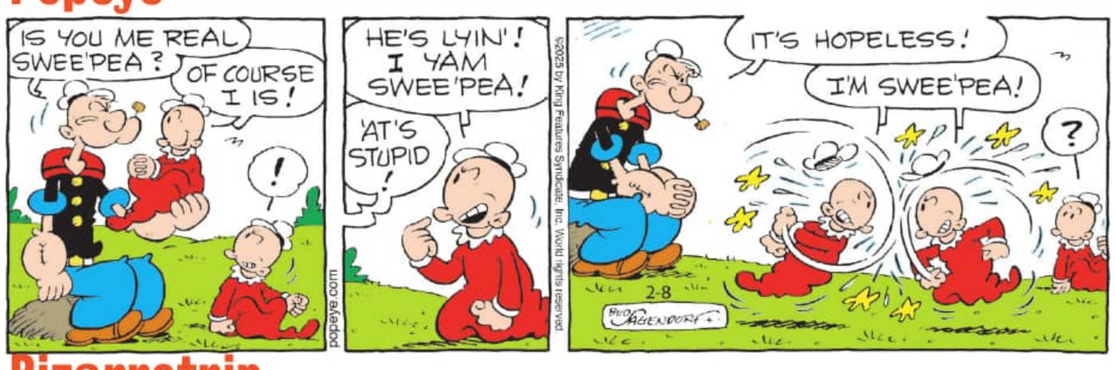


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

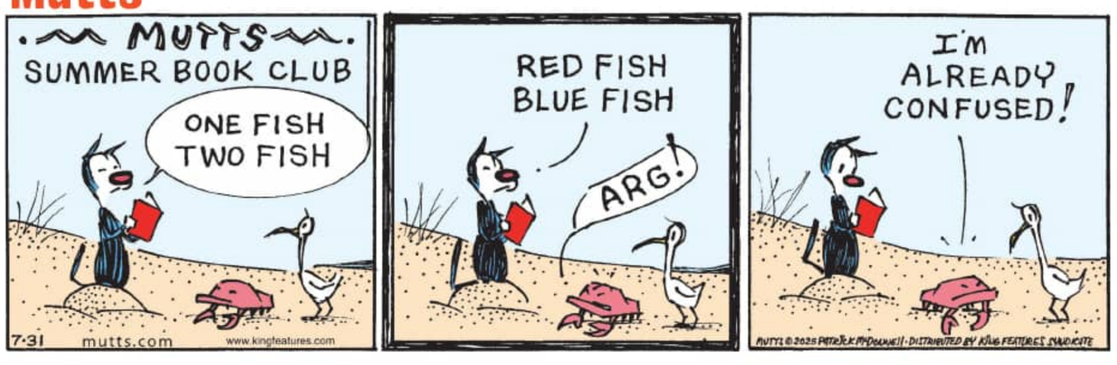
Hart of the city

HOW'S ROOMING WITH DANA BEEN?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
KAT
IT'S BEEN PRETTY GOOD! SHE COULD BE A LITTLE NICER, BUT WHO AM I TO JUDGE? I MAKE NO EFFORT TO REMEMBER BRENT'S NAME.
HEY! YOU REMEMBERED HIS NAME THIS TIME! YOU'RE TURNING A CORNER!
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
"GASP" I THINK MY CRUSH IS THINKING OF ME!
OH. OKAY.
3.33

Crankshaft

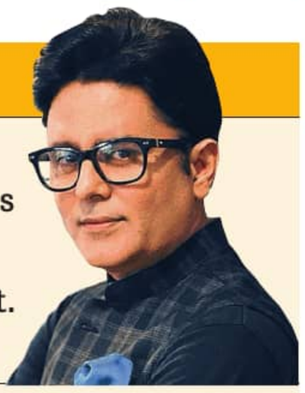
JALAPEÑO POPPERS... HOT WINGS... SPICY SUSHI ROLLS...
7-31
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
IS THERE ANYTHING OLD PEOPLE EAT?
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Your sharp mind and intellect lead to significant career breakthroughs and newfound financial freedom. Love is exhilarating, but requires balancing your independence with shared intimacy. Family ties are powerfully reaffirmed through a shared purpose or long-term project. Learning a new skill proves to be unexpectedly lucrative.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Heartbreak has deepened your connections, revealing strength in love and friendship. You're entering a fresh chapter; trust it. Accept new opportunities fearlessly.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Passion and clarity return today. Uncertainty transforms into inspiration when you act with faith. Embrace change confidently; your patience and insight now bring creative ideas to life and turn luck in your favour.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Love and kindness surround you; let go of control and receive. Shift toward gratitude, think positively, and welcome small changes. Uplifting news is near, reminding you that gentle openness attracts growth.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Your talents are ready to shine; don't hide them behind self-doubt. Focus on priorities, share your gifts, and trust divine timing. Breathe deeply, believe in yourself, and let life unfold naturally.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

It's time for joyful action, not overthinking. Step outdoors, meet inspiring people, and savour life's magic. Follow your passions with courage; these simple joys will reignite your creativity and motivation.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Your reflections have birthed brilliance; now act on it. Listen to your body's wisdom and share your ideas freely. Productivity soars when you trust yourself and dive boldly into new beginnings.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Speak your truth gently and say "no" where needed. Release uncertainty and energy drains; clarity replaces confusion. This closing chapter brings healing, direction, and a lighter path toward renewal.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Don't let fear cloud your optimism. Trust your instincts and welcome only what feels aligned. A new chapter begins, guided by wisdom and resilience; your future is unfolding beautifully.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Pause your worries and visualize success. Dream vividly and act intentionally. Career shifts in mentoring or communication may inspire fulfilment. Let creativity and courage shape your next exciting adventure.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Simplify and focus your energy wisely. Align goals to avoid overwhelm and take confident leadership. Every decision today builds a stronger foundation for long-term stability and self-assured success.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

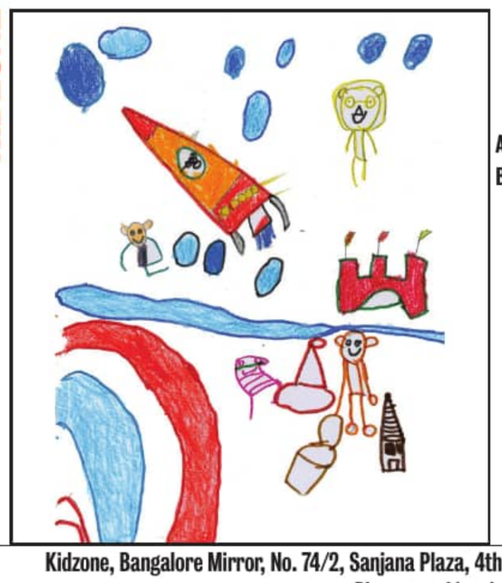
Balance productivity with pleasure; self-care fuels inspiration. Enjoy what truly fulfils you and release negativity gracefully. You're divinely guided; protect your peace and stay confident as abundance flows toward you.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Declutter your mind and life; simplicity restores peace. You have nothing to prove. Prioritise rest, self-care, and authenticity; trust your instincts to guide you gently toward renewal and emotional clarity.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Adrith, Bengaluru

Gaurav, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 5/8(48 ÷ 6 x 7) / 7
= 5/8(8 x 7) / 7
= 5/8(56) / 7
= 5/8-8
= (5-64)/8
= -59/8
= -7.375

QUOTE UNCODE
Do not mistake a crowd of big wage-earners for the leisure class.

FAST FIVE

S	A	V	E	S
A	R	E	A	L
L	O	N	G	E
A	H	O	L	D
D	A	M	E	S

RIDDLER
They are all starts to the names of US Presidents

STRIKE OUT

F	A	C	E	D		C	H	E	L	S	E	A		
R		A	R	C		E	T	A		G				
U		C	A	L	C	I	U	M		O				
I	S	C	H	I	A		R	I	B	B	O	N		
T		A		N	D	A		D			I			
S	E	M	I		L		E	A	V	E	S			
S		C		N	O	D	E	S		A		E		
C	R	A	I	G		E		T	U	L	U			
O		N			R	A	I		E		O			
F	E	A	S	T	S		E	M	O	T	E	D		
F		T	O	P	C	O	A	T			E			
G				N		T	H				O			
I	N	D	E	S		E	O	S	I	N				

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
9. In rows, add the left and centre figures to get the right hand number.

BULL'S EYE
even, INVERSE, nerve, never, rein, resin, rinse, risen, seen, seven, sine, siren, sneer, vein, vine

SUDOKU

7	5	1	6	3	9	4	8	2
9	3	6	8	2	4	7	1	5
8	2	4	5	1	7	3	6	9
1	8	2	7	4	5	6	9	3
4	9	7	3	8	6	1	2	5
5	6	3	2	9	1	8	7	4
6	1	9	4	7	3	5	2	8
3	7	8	9	5	2	1	4	6
2	4	5	1	6	8	9	3	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Or, Roe, Rome, Proem, Romper, Emperor.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 5 + 4 + 8 = 22
Medium
6 + 3 + 3 – 9 = 3
Hard
4 + 2 – 3 x 7 = 21

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 18, Issue No 220 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Jeremy Renner denies harassment —
"Avengers" star Jeremy Renner has reportedly dismissed the harassment claims made by Chinese director Yi Zhou describing them as "totally inaccurate and untrue"

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

New hero

Jayasurya R Azad aka Jayasurya, who has played character roles in Salaga and Bheema, debuts as a hero with The Task. The movie, directed by Raghu Shivamogga, is scheduled to arrive in theaters on November 21.

"I hope The Task will become a turning point in my acting career. I am grateful to Duniya Vijay who gave me an opportunity to act in Salaga and Bheema because acting it helped me a lot," said Jayasurya.

In The Task, Jayasurya plays a person burdened by societal pressures. His character reflects the emotion and trauma many felt during the pandemic. "My character is someone suppressed by the world around him. Sagar Ram, another character in the story, is equally oppressed. Both struggle to break free, and through their journeys, there's a message of change," he explains. "The film also shows the unseen effects of the pandemic—the loneliness, the trauma that still lingers." Jayasurya has a personal connection to the plot. "I lost some of my best friends during the pandemic. I also lost my dance master. So when I read the script, I felt the grief, the silence, the need to find meaning again," he shares. He credits director Raghu Shivammoga for helping him to improve his acting skills.

Ready to shoot

The muhurat function of Love Case was held at Sri Bande Mahakali Temple on Friday. Jaish aka Madhu, who has been associated with small screen and silver screen for two decades, is debuting as an independent director with the film bankrolled by Mohan Babu under the MB Creations banner. Ranjan S, who played small character roles in Sarkari Hiriya Prathamika Shale and Kanthara, plays the lead while Vamshi, who earned name for her performance in Mahanati reality show, is paired opposite Ranjan. This is Vamshi's debut as a heroine in Sandalwood.

"The movie's shooting will commence on Monday in and around Bengaluru for three days. Later, we will visit Chikballapur for a five-day shooting schedule. We plan to put up a set in Bengaluru for 10 days. We will also visit Mangaluru. The movie's shooting is expected to be wrapped up in two schedules for 45 days", said Jaish.

He said he considers actor Sai Kumar as his mentor and guide because it was Sai Kumar who made him work for Telugu reality shows. "I met Sai Kumar in 2008. Impressed by my writing skills, he recommended me to many directors. I have also worked as associate director for a few Kannada movies," he said. The director said the movie has more than 80 artistes including Nagabushan, Srinagar Kitty, Sudharani, Bala Rajwadi, Pramod Shetty, Ramesh Pandit, and Ramakrishna. "All the actors were given importance," he said.

Reaching out

Priya Mani on her game changer series and the process of auditioning

When The Family Man premiered in 2019, it changed things for Priya Mani Raj. The National Award-winning actress, already a familiar name in South Indian cinema, found herself connecting with a whole new audience across India. "Definitely, 200%," she laughs when asked how much of a game changer it was.

"I'm so happy, so fortunate that I got to be part of such a wonderful series," says Priya Mani, who will soon be seen in season 3 of the web series featuring Manoj Bajpayee and created by Raj & DK. The opportunity to work on the show came to Priya Mani in the most unexpected manner. "It all began when Mukesh Chhabra (casting director) called me and said there's a project he wanted to talk about," she recalls. "The next day, I met Raj and DK and they narrated the story to me for about half an hour. At that point, I wasn't even sure if I was part of it. That's because in Mumbai, the norm is that you have to audition and I was ready for that. After the narration, my husband said, 'You idiot, they've spent 45 minutes explaining the whole thing to you — that means you're doing it!'" she laughs. "And that's how it happened."

Talking about the audition process, Priya Mani points out that this culture didn't exist in the South earlier. "Of late, they've started auditions, but not to the level of what happens here," she explains. "Casting directors and agencies are just coming into the picture now. Until about five years ago, I don't think there was anything like that in the South." She sees it as a positive change. "There's nothing wrong in auditioning and proving your mettle," the actress adds.

— ETimes

HANDS-ON MOM

Soha Ali Khan, known for being a devoted and hands-on mother to her 8-year-old daughter, Inaaya Naumi Kemmu, recently opened up about her parenting style — and why she prefers to handle her morning routine herself rather than rely on her husband, actor-filmmaker Kunal Kemmu.

In a candid conversation with Tweak India, Soha admitted that she can't depend on Kunal to get their daughter ready for school.

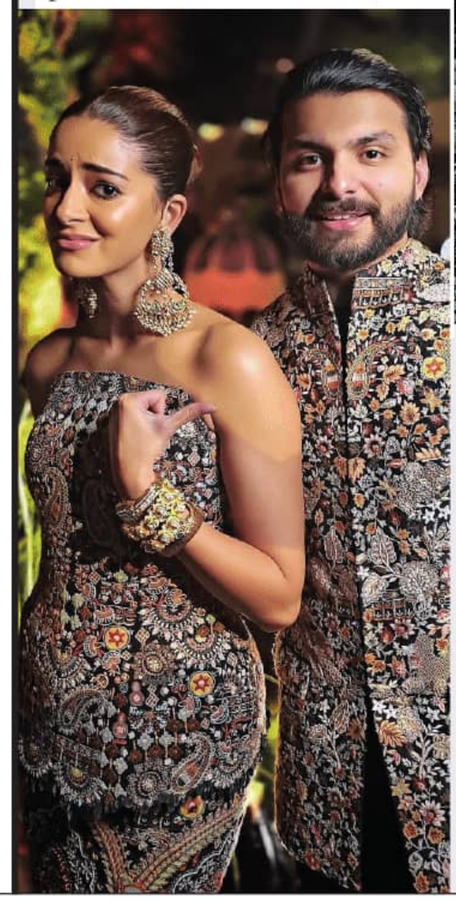
"I like all of the parent duties. Also, because I like to be in control. If I don't do it, it won't happen. If I will send Kunal to wake Inaaya up, they both will be lying in bed till 7:20 am. and I will be like, 'Guys, school time'. He will be like, 'Yeah, yeah, it will happen', and she will pretend to sleep. So I don't outsource anything. I want to do everything by myself," she said with a laugh.

While Soha admits she likes things done a certain way, she's also found a rhythm that allows her some rest — at least on holidays. She revealed that her family understands her need for a bit more sleep, saying, "I told my husband, women need more sleep than men, so he lets me sleep for that extra hour. And Inaaya also knows..." **—ETimes**

Twinning trouble

Bollywood besties Ananya Panday, Shanaya Kapoor, and Janhvi Kapoor recently attended a close friend's wedding, but it wasn't just their stunning looks that caught everyone's attention. What went viral was Ananya Panday's photo featuring Janhvi's boyfriend, businessman Shikhar Pahariya, as the two appeared to be unintentionally twinning in matching brown embroidered outfits.

Ananya shared a carousel of photos from the festivities,



captioning it, "The love of my life married the love of her life @ deeyashroff @mihirmadhvani obsessed w u 2." However, eagle-eyed fans quickly spotted the sixth slide where Ananya and Shikhar appeared in coordinated attire. Janhvi Kapoor, ever quick with her wit, dropped a teasing comment on the post: "6th slide "Janhvi's playful reaction drew amused responses from fans who flooded the comment section, asking if she was feeling a hint of jealousy. One commented, "possessive haan". **— IANS**